

**THE NEED FOR AND THE NEEDS OF ARCHIVES  
NISE PROCEEDINGS 2**



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*The need for and the needs of archives*

**The archives and documentation of the member parties of the  
European Free Alliance (EFA)**

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## PREFACE

In schools across Europe each and every young person has to study History as one of their core subjects. How much history, and indeed ‘whose history?’, these students are actually taught, and how much they subsequently absorb, varies from nation to nation and student to student, and will be dependent upon the political regime under which those young people live. Nevertheless, the accepted notion that studying the past is important is embedded within our societies and we teach our youth to look back in order to strive forward. Given that this is the case, therefore, why is there so little understanding of our ‘national movements and their histories’ and a general neglect by state authorities for the pamphlets, letters and other documentation that comprise those ‘national movement’ archives?

This volume *The need for and the needs of archives* addresses and answers those questions, and offers solutions to some of the gaps – technological and epistemological – that archivists, historians and political researchers encounter when analysing and caring for this vast treasure trove of national histories. Primarily, however, its focus is on the archives and documentation belonging to the member parties of the European Free Alliance, the European political party that embraces the progressive civic nationalist, regionalist and autonomist parties of many of Europe’s emerging nations. Undertaking such a mammoth project, in which a large number of organisations and contributors are consulted and advised, variably has its logistical problems. But this publication examines how these can, and indeed were, overcome.

Having been involved in recent archive classification – through exploring the voluminous archives of the late Plaid Cymru politician and political philosopher, Professor Phil Williams – I have come to appreciate how exacting the process of recording and storing documentation actually is. The Welsh Nationalism Foundation was faced with ‘opening up’ and collating the 90 or so packed boxes of Phil Williams’ writings, in order to assess their contents for a project in which we were analysing his thoughts on defence and international affairs. This would have been a fairly straightforward assignment for an archivist, but it was a daunting task for an amateur sleuth. During that brief interlude I came to recognise and appreciate the vital role that archivists and librarians play to enable us, as researchers and academics, to have the space to conduct our work.

Most of us do not have the archivists or librarians organisational skills and training and therefore we tend to scatter our material in an uncoordinated way. What NISE

has achieved is the assembling and coordination of a vast array of publications and allied paraphernalia, in order to allow us, the readers and researchers, access to this historical gold mine. The value of this publication, therefore, is that it sets out NISE's *raison d'être*, analyses its work with EFA and other academic, archival, national organisations and bodies, and ensures that more people get to know about, and understand, this wonderful collection of political material.

**Dr Alan Sandry**  
**Welsh Nationalism Foundation**  
**Cymru / Wales, May 2012**

## THE NEED FOR ARCHIVES

This section describes the subject for the project, from a general level (archives), over the context of national movements and political parties, to the specific case at hand, i.e. the EFA parties.

The first chapter in this section asks the fundamental question: why archives? It will endeavour to show the unavoidable need for archives – for a number of reasons – in any society and community and for every individual. The section continues with a chapter on the sometimes difficult relationship between archival care on the one hand and national movements as well as political parties in general on the other. It concludes with a description of the project's goal, which is assessing the situation for a particular sample of political parties. This publication is one of its products.

### A brief history of archives

Throughout history, several reasons to keep archives developed: legal and administrative, historiographical, personal and political. Archives support and guarantee the rights and obligations of governments and citizens, provide the basis for original historical research, significantly influence the contents and orientation of personal memory and determine the collective memory i.e. (national) identity of a community, symbolizing the 'eternal' survival of a culture.

The term 'archives' refers to "*the materials created or received by a person, family, or organization, public or private, in the conduct of their affairs and preserved because of the enduring value contained in the information they contain or as evidence of the functions and responsibilities of their creator, especially those materials maintained using the principles of provenance, original order, and collective control*" (Pearce-Moses 2005). This includes policy papers and other internal documents, the letters received and sent, the transcripts and reports of meetings, general administrative papers, financial administration, notes, private papers, publications, campaign material (posters, leaflets, banners etc.) etc. With 'documentation' is indicated "*materials created or collected to provide facts for reference, especially when created to substantiate decisions, actions, or events*" (Pearce-Moses 2005), i.e. clippings, newspapers, journals, books a.s.o. Materials are not confined to paper, but also consist

of all form of audiovisual objects such as photographs, films, sound recordings – for instance interviews. And nowadays there are of course the digital born or digitalised sources. They superimpose a problem that was signalled during the second half of the 20th century, when the telephone had become the characteristic medium for urgent and/or confidential communication, and letters steadily became a formality: “*Increasingly, what survives in the archives is what was meant to survive*” (Clarke 1991, 235). Digital archives have seen to a certain degree to that problem, but only if archived properly, which poses new problems.

Archives have a policy supporting role and are a necessary tool to hold authorities to account. They come into being as a result of carrying out assignments, work processes and activities within organisations and by individuals. They play an important part in decision making and corporate governance. Archives are indispensable for the legitimisation of policy and action and testify to rights and duties, not in the least the universal human rights (Gonzalez-Quintana 2009); keeping administrative archives is one of the requirements for good governance. From the 1960s onwards, and at its peak in the 1990s, the archival concept and method even played a key role in a new science discourse (developed by Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault e.a.) for philosophy, epistemology, art, cultural and media studies etc. (Ebeling & Günzel 2009).

The beginning of human civilisation corresponds with the invention of writing and the subsequent need to archive its products. Writing emerged first as a form of accounting and power, not as a way to record speech. Already 5000 years ago the Sumerian town of Uruk, on the river Euphrates, kept (together with literature) accountancy data on cuneiform tablets. We know this archival practice continued notwithstanding the lack of traces of archival practices from the sixth century B.C. as more perishable surfaces like leather, wood or papyrus were used for writing. However, it evolved, as writing constituted a new way of storing, and therefore controlling, information (Christian 2004, 275; what had begun as a way of keeping records turned into a true writing system: 276). Only urban civilisation with its much greater social differentiation allows the exercise of power to be institutionalised (the word itself is derived from the Greek *ἀρχή*, meaning government). Advanced urban civilisations produced identity-building status symbols and, with the development of writing, a more or less permanent tradition. They are there at the beginning of history as we know it, in Egypt as well as in Mesopotamia, India, China, Mexico and Peru. Ancient Greece had archival depots whereas official reg-



istry offices or *archeia*, laws and legal documents containing all the rights of the citizens, were kept in the *Metreon*, the building where the city council met. Laws were only in vigour after they were deposited in the archives (Didi-Huberman & Ebeling 2007). The Roman Empire kept the legislative decisions by the Senate and other 'special' government archives, like population censuses (together with the treasury) first in a temple dedicated to Saturn and later on in a specially designed building called *Tabularium*.

With the decline of written culture from the ninth century onwards, no archival organisation to speak of was in place in Europe for more than four hundred years. Moreover, archival management developed out of other needs than before: no longer the rights of society as a whole were the concern, but the specific rights of institutes or power groups, like churches and monasteries, sovereigns and nobility as well as towns.

Only from the 15th and 16th centuries onwards, as a result of sustained state building (but also because of the use from the 14th century of paper, as a more easily available writing surface), systematic keeping of the sovereign's archives resumed, rapidly increasing the number of letters, accounts, legal papers. Those archives, products of an organised government, were kept in chancellery archives. From the 18th century the tendency was already to concentrate the archives in one central depot; but it was the modern state that, one century later, gave rise to the national archives.

Since the end of the 18th century, archives were also used as sources for historical research, as part of the development of that discipline into a science. Archives became a *Fundgrube* for the historian, a storehouse of data, necessary to write the history of a country, an organisation, an individual, an evolution etc. (even leading to the wry comment that "*as old-fashioned artisans, historians have sometimes made a good thing out of implying that the mystery of their craft is arcane, because archival*": Clarke 1991, 235). Therefore no longer only government archives were kept, but also the papers of societies, parishes, trade unions, companies and political parties.

This scientific undertaking however was not before long accompanied by the public use of memory, i.e. by a new fundamental role for archives. The memory of a community resides in its archives. It relies upon "the tangible material of the remaining trace on the immediacy of that what is being registered, on the visibility of the image" (Pierre Nora, cf. Janssens 2010). Therefore archives are like

*lieux-de-mémoires*, at the interacting crossroads of remembrance and history. They become active symbolic elements of a community's patrimony of remembrance (Craig 2001). A political collectivity cannot be conceived without a shared history and a collective memory keeping the history alive, translating it continuously to the present. With its shared memory, values and concepts defining the collectivity are stored, securing the future of the collective entity. Archival holdings are therefore not only depots for source materials to be used in historical research or 'houses of history', but at the same time 'houses of remembrance' where the collective memory is kept alive (not without reason did Napoleon order his troops at the beginning of the 19th century to bring over to Paris the archives of countries he had conquered: by losing their archives, parts of Europe were to lose their memory of independence).

During the 19th century, history became important for nation formation because historical truth was at the very top of national value systems. The older a nation (preferably politically, but also culturally), the more important. National history legitimised national existence and was the source for a national value system, whilst the individual was also offered a substitute for immortality. However, national history could only be constructed if it corresponded with the general historical awareness and was based on the perception of sharing a common past among the people. National history was popularised by the formation of national myths. These myths, with a historical core of military actions, important turning points and famous people (heroes, artists, scientists), were part of the contemporary reality and therefore primarily played a social role. This was also the case for traditions (*invented* and *genuine old traditions*), albeit not as part of collective 'memory', but as a continuation of history (e.g. Hroch 2005).

As a result of this evolution, also archives, as sources for writing history, became an important feature of the nation(-state). *"Whether conscious of it or not, archivists are major players in the business of identity politics. Archivists appraise, collect and preserve the props with which notions of identity are built. In turn, notions of identity are confirmed and justified as historical documents validate with all their authority as 'evidence' the identity stories so built. While relationships between archives and identity occur across disparate historical and cultural contexts, common issues involving the power over the record serve to link the crises of identity experienced by a variety of subaltern groups desiring to construct a viable, authentic and cohesive identity. Thus, the role of archives and archivists must also be examined against a backdrop of this discourse on identity."* (Schwartz & Cook 2002, 16).

However, as “*More thorough than conquering armies, battling ethnicities have done their utmost to eradicate all traces of their enemies*” (Boaz 2008, 251), archives and libraries are especially targeted. As books and by extension archives, are links to memory, one of the axes of identity of a person or community, the first thing a group or nation does in case it tries to subjugate another group or nation, is to erase the physical traces of that memory in order to reconfigure their identity and gain total control (cf. the illustration on the next page of the shattered window of a party archive). This *damnatio* or *abolitio memoriae*, alternatively indicated by neologisms as ‘bibliocaust’, ‘biblioclasy’ (Umberto Eco) or ‘libricide’ (Rebecca Knuth), also applies to archives (‘archicaust’, ‘archiclasty’, ‘archicide’?), thus violating the fundamental human right to identity (Boaz 2008, *passim*).

The need for archives to underpin cultural identity remains to this day, albeit transformed by modern society: “*Memory, like history, is rooted in archives. Without archives, memory falters, knowledge of accomplishments fades, pride in a shared past dissipates. Archives contain the evidence of what went before. This is particularly germane in the modern world. With the disappearance of traditional village life and the extended family, memory based on personal, shared story-telling is no longer possible; the archive remains as one foundation of historical understanding. Archives validate our experiences, our perceptions, our narratives, our stories. Archives are our memories. Yet what goes on in the archives remains remarkably unknown. Users of archives (historians and others) add layers of meaning, layers which become naturalized, interialized, and unquestioned. This lack of questioning is dangerous because it implicitly supports the archival myth of neutrality and objectivity, and this sanctions the already strong predilection of archives and archivists to document primarily mainstream culture and powerful records creators. It further privileges the official narratives of the state over the private stories of individuals.*” (Schwartz & Cook 2002, 18). If before it were charters that carried the community creating ‘Stories’, nowadays a new kind of ‘community archives’ exists, i.e. numerous Internet sites telling ‘Stories’ with the help of documents of migrants, minorities, population groups, local entities...: “*archive is epic*” (Craven 2007).

On this upgrading of historiography i.e. the increased importance of archives as part of nation formation, considerable influence was exerted by national movements. The next chapter looks at their history and the role played in it by political parties.



## **National movements and political parties**

Since the end of the 18th century nationalism plays an important role in the history of Europe. The protagonists of nationalism, assembled in national movements, were involved in the construction of nations and national identity, contributing both to the constitution and the dissolution of states. Even today nationalism is a complex phenomenon that exerts an important influence on the cultural and political evolution of the world. Together national movements have created a unique European phenomenon that consequently has been introduced (and adapted) throughout the rest of the world.

For the greater part, they consist of intermediary structures in the form of political parties, cultural associations as well as social organisations. An intermediary structure is a form of organisation under private law whose function it is to mediate between the individual and the public authorities while pursuing a kind of continuity. The intermediary structures operate in a society between the authorities and the individual and are active on all levels of social life (politics, social, economic, cultural and religious affairs). People associate with these intermediary structures on different levels of activity (persons in charge, activists, representatives, ideologists etc.). They play a significant and decisive role in various forms in each of the three stages of Miroslav Hroch's typology: the cultural stage A, the political stage B and the mass stage C (Hroch 2005).

Within such intermediary organisations, archives are created as a result of carrying out tasks, of work processes and activities. They are not only indispensable for their administration, but they play also an important role in decision making and organisational policy. They are moreover necessary for holding to account the professionals and managers of the organisation. There is also the undisputable historic interest of the archives (Brouwer 2009, 75). And, finally, archives are inextricably part of the identity of any group or organisation.

Therefore archives were and are indispensable, all the more so for the movements that have a nation (or region) at the core of their political aspirations. However, because of the specific history of their origin and context, the conservation and disclosure of those sources are exposed to a host of dangers.

As a rule, national movements are very heterogeneous in their composition and, generally, do not have a central leadership. In the course of their history they therefore usually lack a single depository for their records and documentation. The sources of and about the national movements moreover are those of their intermediary structures and the people linked to them. As those sources are produced by private organisations and individuals, there is no legal provision nor any subsequent government operation to transfer those sources to official archival institutes. And because the status of the sources pertains to private law, the institutes need to display a far-reaching prospective to research and collect the sources. Also, in some cases the keepers of the records operated clandestinely for a longer or shorter period. In many cases, the authorities took no interest in those sources for a long time and in some even until today.

It must also be noted that sometimes the keepers of the archives were rather suspicious of the official bodies and/or archival institutes. And, although the situation varies according to the various national movements, generally no concerted effort has been made to collect the records, documentation and information in a scientific manner and to conserve them and disclose them for research.

Of course there are exceptions like the situation for the national movement in Flanders, where an institute such as the government funded but autonomous ADVN collects all kinds of relevant sources, discloses them and makes them available for scientific research, whilst it is also involved in research itself. There are nevertheless also national movements where the conservation of the records, their disclosure and use for scientific research leaves much to be desired or is even non-existent. And there is a vast array of variations and levels of source management and relevant research between those two extremes.

A specific intermediary structure is of course the political party. Political parties are indispensable elements of democracy: they are of decisive significance in the parliamentary system, in the state organisation and in society as a whole. It is their task to help with the political education of the people, influencing public opinion, stimulating public debate and encouraging the active participation of the citizen in the political process; parties influence the economic, social and judicial constellation of the state at every level, being at the point of contact between state and society. Most of what happens in the executive and legislative arena has its origin in the activities and initiatives of parties. Therefore their history is unmistakably linked with the history of states.

Political parties are different in structure and function according to the different historical and political circumstances occurring in each country. However, a rudimentary typology can be made. Back in the 19th century, there were the so-called parties of notables, consisting of representatives of a certain social group, without a clear-cut membership or central party organisation (nor any form of archival management). The opposite is the democratic mass party, with its own party officials and bureaucratic apparatus, acting as a constant instrument for the formation of public opinion. There is also the people's party, which trades programmatic infiltration for a broader catch and quick electoral success. The mass integration party is a tool for totalitarian systems to accaparate mind and body of all the citizens of a state. And there are of course also parties that are based regionally or represent a minority.

The archives of parties document the formation of opinion within the party as well as the transformation in political will and action. The more complete party archives are, the better extensive research of them is possible and the mutual penetration of state and society can be traced. Also, political, sociological, historiographical, as well as regional and local research questions can be answered with the help of party archives. They are of decisive importance as evidence of the efficiency of the programmatic and specialised political work of the parties (Buchstab 1994, 123).

Of course the documents and files created by the party administration are indispensable, but also the archives of its politicians, officials and members can be essential (certainly in the case of the parties of notables). There are different kinds of archival materials created by and around political parties and the people involved with them: letters, programmes, meeting and action reports, posters, banners, leaflets, flyers, sound recordings, films, photographs, periodicals, monographs a.s.o.

However, keeping records is most of the time not a prime concern for party officials and representatives. Parties are by nature more interested in the future than the past: they look forward and try to win elections. Archivists have therefore their work cut out, making the party aware of the importance of its archives. Also, as a rule, parties do not have a bureaucratic organisation, with a regulated classification, registration and keeping of documents: money, personnel and space are most of time lacking. Often, the papers, when no longer of any use, are put in the cellar or the attic, or even destroyed due to lack of space.

As political archives contain, more often than not, sensitive material, they are usually only entrusted to private institutes close to the party and not, in the first place, to public archival institutes. The quality of these institutes is uneven: they often are political foundations, sometimes funded by the state, in their make-up as a rule more research than archival minded. Not all of them have professional and scientific, integrated heritage and research institutes at their disposal; and in all countries with a long tradition of political parties, there are various breaks caused by major political events.

That is why in 1994 Günter Buchstab, archivist for the German Christian-democrat archives, called the situation for party archives in Europe “*ernst*” (“serious”): with a few exceptions they were neglected or even in some cases destroyed. He reckoned that with regards to Western Europe, only in Germany and Belgium the situation was satisfactory, due to the socialist/social-democrat parties, which, because of their relatively long and sustained tradition, were more history-minded than their ideological adversaries. It was however also “*nicht ganz hoffnungslos*” (“not without hope”) (Buchstab 1994, 16).

The situation for political party archives in Europe is therefore unsatisfactory, to say the least. There are several specific obstacles to their preservation and management. For nationalist and regionalist parties there are additional difficulties, as we have seen for the archives of the national movements in general. It goes without saying that particular political parties with group identity as their core business, which is the case for nationalist and regionalist parties, are expected to be aware of the need for archives and to pay attention to the needs of archives. As is the case for the parties assembled in EFA.

### **The project**

Back in 1994, Günter Buchstab called for action by historians and archivists to stimulate historical and archival awareness among political parties. Cross-boundary solutions had to be found and an important role was reserved on a European level for archival institutes and archivists (Buchstab 1994, 18).

How much progress has been made since then?

A project of which this publication is a spin-off, wanted to answer that question



for a cross-section of party archives: it focused on the parties assembled in the European Free Alliance (EFA). This European political party unites progressive nationalist, regionalist and autonomist parties in the European Union. Its European foundation, the Centre Maurits Coppieters (CMC), initiated the project. CMC observes, analyses data and contributes to the debate on European public policy issues with a special focus on the role of democratic-nationalist and regionalist movements and the process of European integration – for more information on CMC, see its website (CMC 2011). One of its goals is gathering and managing information for scientific purposes on all nationalist and regionalist movements, organisations, structures... in all its appearances, situated in a European context. The current project fits hand in glove with this particular purpose.

To carry out the project, NISE (National movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe) was selected. NISE is an international historiographical, heuristic and archival platform coordinated by the ADVN, the archives, documentation and research centre in Antwerp (Belgium). NISE wants to facilitate the scientific historiography of national movements, in particular its intermediary structures (associations, clubs, periodicals, political parties a.s.o.); part of its operation is about the archival and documentary heritage of those intermediary structures, including political parties (for more information see Boeva 2010).

This particular project started at the end of 2009 with a preliminary study setting out the framework and formulating questions that had to be answered, taking into account that archives of parties operating within national or regional movements have to contend with problems unlike those of other parties.

First of all the subject for the study was defined; then the content and procedure for the survey, around which the project centred, were outlined. Finally the format in which the results of the project, i.e. a database and a report, would be made available to the partakers of the project as well as the general public, was laid out.

The survey to gather relevant data among the EFA parties, enquiring about the actual situation for the archives (content, material conditions, access, finding aids a.s.o.) was consequently carried out in 2010. However, as this publication will show, the difficulties surrounding the gathering of data leading to a too small statistical base to allow for conclusions to be drawn, necessitated the postponement of this step, extending the project with one year into 2011.

Two progress reports were filed at the beginning of 2010 and 2011. A final report concluded the project.

This publication is one of three, mutual complementary, material results of the project, the other ones being the database with information on the archives, the parties and the archival holders and the manual for archival management.

In this first section, the research question was elaborated on, by making the case for the necessity for society and societies to keep, manage and disclose archives, focusing on their role in national movements and in particular political parties.

The second section describes first of all the subject as well as methodology used to gather information and how the data were processed and presented with the help of a database. It presents the actual findings leading to conclusions in its final chapter.

As some of the participants are not used to archival practices, the third and final section focuses not only on the needs that archives engender but also on the need that every organisation has for archival care and management. It also examines in what way the interests of the so-called partakers (party administration, politicians, authorities, fundraisers, researchers, media a.s.o.) are taken care of. Recommendations are formulated concerning the management of party archives in general and the archives of nationalist and regionalist parties in particular, esp. with regard to safeguarding the archives as well as making scientific research on its contents possible. It also examines how cross-border cooperation by all stakeholders involved, including the heritage and/or research institutes, with appropriate organisational and policy measures, could assist preserving and managing the archives, so as to make them useful for administration, political activity and scientific (politicalological, historical, sociological) research.

This publication is accompanied by two separate, but intrinsically linked products: an Internet database and an on-line manual. Their aim is to promote the management of the archives and documentation of the political parties in general and of the EFA parties in particular, by offering information and formulating guidelines. They also want to further the study of regionalist and nationalist parties in Europe by providing a heuristic tool.

The database holds information on the archives of the EFA parties, on the parties themselves and regarding the archival holders. The data are open for consultation by the general public on the NISE website; they will be constantly added to and

updated by the NISE platform, as it forms part of its remit.

The manual is also available on-line at the NISE website. This instrument realizes already one of the report's recommendations. Indeed, as the situation for the archives of regionalist and nationalist political parties, with a considerable number still being kept in private hands, is not ideal for the moment, instruments are needed to help safeguard and manage those invaluable sources of information. Practical worktools for the management of organisational archives are however far and few between (e.g. Folkrorelsernas arkivhandbok 1982). The manual is therefore intended to further that indispensable task, by providing a concise and practical guide to those instruments, procedures, methods and standards. Also this tool will be constantly revised and added to.

The project has been carried out by many ADVN collaborators, in one way or another. However, its outcome would not have been possible without the ever available help and kind assistance by CMC collaborators Eva Bidania, Ignasi Centelles, Iria Epalza and director Günther Dauwen. Also many party officials and collaborators opened without hesitation their archives to us.

The photographs taken from the archives (buildings) during the visits were purely for documentary reasons; the publication of some of them, together with one or two pictures of archival institutes holding party archives, is only for illustrative reasons, showing different kind of situations for party archives to be in. They therefore come without captions.

The material results of the project, together with the recommendations, will hopefully contribute to the attainment of its fundamental goal, i.e. ameliorating the archival situation for the EFA members and in doing so, setting a benchmark for the preservation and management of archives of national and regional movements in general, on which further initiatives could be built.



## **ARCHIVES IN NEED?**

This section of the publication looks first of all at the way the survey has been conducted. It proceeds with categorizing its findings and concludes, on that basis, with an analysis and synthesis of the situation for the archives of the political parties of EFA.

### **Survey**

Surveys on the archives of political parties are few and far between. They also do not always yield the expected results. For instance, in 1990/1991, the letters distributed for a survey on Christian democratic parties remained for the most part unanswered.

As we have seen, the archival awareness was in the past more developed among socialist and social democrat parties. Even letters from the Section of Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties of the International Council of Archives, sent fairly recently to many political parties, received a rather limited response (Minutes, 2006).

For nationalist and regionalist parties in Europe, no specific, systematic survey seems to have been performed in the past.

### *Subject*

The project examined the archival situation for the parties assembled in the European Free Alliance (EFA).

EFA is a European political party uniting progressive, nationalist, regionalist and autonomist parties in the European Union. Its members subscribe to the right of peoples to self-determination and adhere to the principles of parliamentary democracy and human rights. The main objective of EFA is to provide democratic nationalism and regionalism with a political structure which allows scope for practical initiatives at the European level. EFA stands for solidarity between the peoples, languages and cultures. Defending and guarding the diversity of languages and cultures in the EU is the cornerstone for the construction of a democratic and unified Europe.



EFA was founded in 1981 as an association of cooperation by the union of political parties differing in concept from traditional politics in the sense that they give importance to maximum decentralisation. Already, in its Brussels statement of 1981, EFA declared that the appropriate way of reaching the European dimension, in a humane manner, was to build Europe on the basis of the peoples and regions. Europe has to be founded on the basis of communities of people, and not built on a centralised, uniform model.

In 1994, EFA was officially founded as a federation of parties in accordance with the provisions of Article 138 A of the Treaty of the Union. In the year 2004, EFA was founded (in Barcelona, on 26 March) as a political party according to the new EU regulation (EC 2004/2003; decision of the European Council and European Parliament of 4/11/2003). On the 13th of October 2004 EFA was officially recognised as a European Political Party.

In 2011 EFA had representatives in 13 Member States of the EU; in total 33 parties with more than 200 elected representatives at European, national and regional levels were member. Together, these representatives speak 25 different languages. (For more information on the actual state of play, see the EFA website, esp. <http://www.e-f-a.org/whatsefa.php>; consult also *Who's who? 2011*; for a history of EFA, read Vanhaelewyn 2006.)

Remark that for the project, not only the full member parties were taken into account. Also prospective members and observers were considered as well as a limited number of non-member parties (although also part of a national or regional movement) by way of control group (named 'extra-curricular'). Moreover, during the course of the project, changes have taken place regarding a number of parties, concerning their status and name or even their very existence. All this resulted in a total of 46 possible cases at the beginning of the project.

They are listed alphabetically here below, accompanied by the following data:

- name (with abbreviation)
- location of party headquarters
- part of which movement
- status

All party and place names are indicated in the relevant languages; the reference to the language used is based upon the ISO 639-2 Code for the Representation of Names of Languages – option “T” (terminology). For a full description of each party, conforming to the ISAAR–CPF standard, consult the project database (cf. *infra*).

**Alleanza Libera Emiliana / Libertà**

**Emiliana**

Cortemaggiore, Italy

Emilian

No member [stopped]

**Autonomie Liberté Participation Écologie**

**(ALPE)**

Aoste (fra) / Aosta (ita), Italy

Valdotanian

Member [previously *Renouveau Valdotain (RV)* until it merged in 2010 with *Vallée d'Aoste Vive (VdAV)*, *Alternative Greens* and other left-wing groups, into this new party]

**Bayern Partei (BP)**

München (deu) / Munich (eng),

Germany

Bavarian

Member

**Bloque Nacionalista Galego (BNG)**

Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Galician

Member

**Chunta Aragonesista (CHA)**

Zaragoza (esp) / Saragossa (eng),

Spain

Aragonese

Member

**Die Friesen**

Aurich, Germany

East Frisian

Member

**Enotna Lista (EL)**

Celovec (slv) / Klagenfurt (deu), Austria

Slovene

Member

**Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC)**

Barcelona, Spain

Catalan

Member

**Eusko Alkartasuna (EA)**

Donostia (eus) / San Sebastian (spa), Spain

Basque

Member

**Fryske Nasjonale Partij (FNP)**

Ljouwert (fry) / Leeuwarden (nld),

Netherlands

Frisian

Member

**Lausitzer Allianz (deu) / Luzicka Alianca**

(wen)

Cottbus (deu) / Chóšebuz (wen),

Germany

Sorb

Observer

former: Wendische Volkspartei

**Liga Veneta Repubblica**

Verona, Italy

Venetian

Member

**Ligue Savoisiennne**

Ugine, France

Savoyard

Member



**Lista per Fiume (ita) / Lista za Rijeku**

(hrv)

Fiume (ita) / Rijeka (hrv), Croatia

Liburnian

Member

**Mebyon Kernow (MK)**

Truru (cor) / Truro (eng), United

Kingdom

Cornish

Member

**Megújult Magyarországi Roma**

Összefogás Párt (Renewed Roma Union  
Party of Hungary)

Budapest, Hungary

Roma

Observer (no member from 2012)

**Moravané**

Brno, Czech Republic

Moravian

Member

**Mouvement Région Savoie (MRS)**

Chens-sur-Leman, France

Savoyard

Member

**Movimento per l'Indipendenza della  
Sicilia (MIS)**

Santa Venerina, Italy

Sicilian

Observer

**Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie (N-VA)**

Brussel (ndl) / Bruxelles (fra) / Brussels

(eng), Belgium

Flemish

Member

**Omo "Ilinden"-Pirin**

Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

Macedonian

Member

**Par cilvēka tiesībām vienotā Latvijā**

(PCTVL) (lav) / Za Prava Človeka v Edinoj

Latvii (rus) / FHRUL-For Human Rights in

United Latvia (eng)

Riga, Latvia

Russian

Observer

**Partido Andalucista (PA)**

Sevilla, Spain

Andalusian

Member

**Partidu Sardu / Partito Sardo d'Azione  
(PSd'A)**

Cagliari, Italy

Sardinian

Member

**Partit Occitan (PÒc)**

Saint Julien Chapteuil, France

Occitan

Member

**Partitu di a Nazione Corsa (PNC)**

Bastia, France  
Corsican  
Member

**Plaid Cymru (PC)**

Caerdydd (cym) / Cardiff (eng), United Kingdom  
Welsh  
Member

**Polska Partia Ludowa (PPL) (pl) /  
Lietuvos Lenkų Liaudies Partija (LLL) (lit)**

Polish  
Wilno (pl) / Vilnius (lit), Lithuania  
No member anymore

**Pro deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft  
(ProDG)**

Eupen, Belgium  
German  
Member

**PSM-Entesa Nacionalista**

Palma, Spain  
Balearic  
Member

**Renouveau Valdotain (RV), cf. ALPE**

**Ruch Autonomii Śląska (RAŚ)**

Katowice, Poland  
Silesian  
Member

**Schleswigsche Partei (deu) / Slesvigsk  
Parti (dan) (SP)**

Apenrade (deu) / Aabenraa (dan), Denmark  
German in Denmark  
Observer

**Scottish National Party (SNP)**

Edinburgh, United Kingdom  
Scottish  
Member

**Slovenska Skupnost (slv) / Unione**

**Slovena (ita)**  
Trst (slv) / Trieste (ita), Italy  
Slovene  
Member

**Sociaal-Liberale Partij (S-LP)**

Brussel (ndl) / Bruxelles (fra) / Brussels (eng), Belgium  
Flemish  
Member (joined the party Groen!)

**Strana Regiónov Slovenska (SRS) (now:**

**Strana Živnostníkov Slovenska)**  
Košice, Slovak Republic  
Slovak-Regional  
Member

**Südschleswigsche Wählerverband (SSW)**

Flensburg, Germany  
Danish (and Frisian) in Germany  
Member

**Süd-Tiroler Freiheit**

Kaltern (deu) / Caldarò (ita), Italy  
South-Tirolean  
Observer

**Svenska Folkpartiet (SFP)**

Swedish  
Helsingfors (swe) / Helsinki (fin),  
Finland  
No member (extra-curricular)

**Unidá Nacionalista Asturiana (UNA)**

Uvieu (ast) / Oviedo (spa), Spain  
Asturian  
No member

**Union Démocratique Bretonne (UDB)**

Sant Brieg (bre) / Saint-Brieuc (fra),  
France  
Breton  
Member

**Unitat Catalana**

Perpinya (cat) / Perpignan (fra), France  
Catalan  
Member

**Unser Land**

Guewenheim, France  
Alsatian  
Member

**Vinozhito / European Free Alliance  
– Rainbow**

Lerin (mkd) / Florina (ell), Greece  
Macedonian  
Member

**Ålands Framtid**

Mariehamn, Finland  
Aaland  
Member

## *Data*

This chapter describes the method by which the required information was being gathered, processed and presented.

### Data retrieval

Finding a sufficient amount of data was of course indispensable for a positive outcome of the project.

The retrieval of the data about the archives has been carried out with the help of one or two or all of three of the following *modi operandi*: through the response to a questionnaire, as a result of an interview and in the course of a visit to the archive location. Party officials had to be contacted in a variety of ways, preferably through personal, face to face meetings.

The first step involved contacting the political parties involved. This was preceded by a mail to all parties by the CMC secretariat asking for cooperation with the survey.

With this first contact, a standard set of basic questions about the archives was provided in five languages: English, French, Spanish, German and Italian. The questions referred to localisation (in situ, with party members or in an institute; in the last case: whether it has private or public legal status, if it is a research or heritage institute or both); its physical condition (which materials, what is the state of the depot); the arrangement of the archive (or not); the archival description (*idem*); the digitisation process; the access provided to the archive (are there finding aids available, are there access points, what are the conditions for consulting, what are the facilities on site).

A number of repeat mails encouraging the parties to fill out the questionnaire were sent by NISE and CMC in the course of 2010. A total of eleven parties returned the survey form, or approximately 25%: Bayern Partei, Bloque Nacionalista Galego, Fryske Nasjonale Partij, Plaid Cymru, Strana Regiónov Slovenska, Südschleswigsche Wählerverband, Süd-Tiroler Freiheit, Svenska Folkpartiet, Unser Land, Vinohito / European Free Alliance – Rainbow and Ålands Framtid.

The second step consisted of interviewing representatives of the political parties (or party archives), for clarification of their answers to the questionnaire, for

asking additional questions and/or for establishing contact for the first time. The annual meeting of the EFA parties in Venice (I) on 25-26-27 March 2010 proved to be an excellent occasion to do just that, besides offering the opportunity to present the project in full. Therefore interviews with representatives of as many parties as possible were held, in total twenty six or approximately 56% of the total number of parties: Florian Weber (Bayern Partei), Xabier Macias (Bloque Nacionalista Galego), Miguel Martínez Tomey (Chunta Aragonesista), Justine Hribernik (Enotna Lista), Marta Raira (Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya), Peio Urizar (Eusko Alkartasuna), Sybren Posthumus (Fryske Nasjonale Partij), Fabrizio Comencini (Liga Veneta Repubblica), Denis Pesut (Lista per Fiume), Davyth Hicks (Mebyon Kernow), Jiří Novotný (Moravané), David Vitkov (OMO "Ilinden"-Pirin), Franco Piretta (Partidu Sardu / Partito Sardo d'Azione), Zanna Karelina (Par cilvēka tiesībām vienotā Latvijā), Peire Costa (Partit Occitan), Lucy Collyer (Partit Socialista de Mallorca-Entesa Nacionalista), Julia Sanguinetti (Partitu di a Nazione Corsa), Pia Morise (Renouveau Valdotain), Miklos Karvanský (Strana Regiónov Slovenska), Flemming Meyer (Südschleswigsche Wählerverband), Eva Klotz (Süd-Tiroler Freiheit), Ernesto Avelino Suárez Sáez (Unidá Nacionalista Asturiana), Pierre Fourel (Union Démocratique Bretonne), Guy Cazes (Unitat Catalana), Henry Matusch (Wendische Volkspartei) and Rolf Granlund (Ålands Framtid).

A number of archives were selected to be visited. The selection was initially made in order to attain a detailed description of party archives, representing different kinds and stages of archival management. The criteria for selection were in the first instance:

- depot location
- age
- size
- complexity of creation
- description level
- kind of materials kept
- other (such as: non-EFA member party).

These characteristics were interwoven, resulting in a set of types to which a number of case studies correspond. The following situational types of party archives were distinguished:

- (a) kept at an archival and/or research centre;
- (b) kept at headquarters, old and/or composite (possibly containing external archives);

- (c) kept at headquarters, (relatively) new containing only dynamic/administrative archives;
- (d) kept in private hands;
- (e) non-EFA party archive.

Five party archives (kept at party headquarters, institutes or other) were consequently visited in 2010.

At the end of 2010, the questionnaire, interviews and visits combined however still had yielded unsatisfactory results, quantitatively and qualitatively. Information on in total thirteen of the targetted 44 party archives was gathered at a sufficient level. Conversely, the data of approximately 75% of party archives were still to be gathered, bearing in mind that to produce a valid survey, approximately 50% (and preferably 75%) has to be covered.

So, the amount and quality of the recovered data had not yet reached the level as to warrant the use of statistical tools.

There were a number of causes for this lack of response: besides the general similarity of returns on surveys, which was taken into account beforehand, there was also in more cases than expected a language problem, in spite of drafting the questionnaire in five languages and having a translator at hand during the interviews. An even more important cause however was the fact that a fair number of targeted participants were not accustomed to discuss archival matters (and not familiar with archival concepts and terminology). It also transpired that there was initially a great deal of incomprehension or even suspicion regarding the aim of the project.

This all rendered the approach via (e-)mail, telephone and also interviews not held at the actual archival site, in some cases unsuccessful and in many other cases without any result at all. In contrast, each time a visit was made to the actual archival depot, information could be gathered to a satisfactory degree, even engendering willingness to fully cooperate with the project. In other words, the time foreseen in the original project plan for face to face harvesting of data proved to be too restrictive.

So, as there was insufficient data available to produce valid results upon which conclusions could be drawn and recommendations made with statistically sound foundation, it was decided to prolong the project with one year to make additional visits to party archive locations. These should remedy the insufficient harvesting of data, both in exploring exemplary cases as well as for gathering basic information. Consequently, another eleven party archives (kept at party headquarters, insti-

tutes or other) were selected for a visit on location in 2011. In total 16 party archives were visited: Bayern Partei (Florian Weber and Thomas Hummel), Ålands Framtid (Axel Johnson), Svenska Folkpartiet (Lena Karhu), Enotna Lista (Justine Hribernik), Moravané (Milan Trnka, Zdeněk Zbožínek, Jaroslav Pazour and Stanislav Kozel), Union Démocratique Bretonne (Jef Monnier), Unser Land (Daniël Willmé), Südschleswigsche Wählerverband (Martin Lorenzen), Ligue Savoisiennne (Patrice Abeille), Mouvement Région Savoie (Pierre Ottin), Schleswigsche Partei (Gösta Toft), Ruch Autonomii Śląska (Michal Buchta), European Free Alliance – Rainbow (Pavle Voskopoulos), Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (Josep Vall and Natàlia Lara), Eusko Alkartasuna (Rafael Larreina Valderrama) and Chunta Aragonesista (Miguel Martinez Tomey and Josefina Muslen).

At the end of the project, information of some kind on the archival situation was harvested from in total forty-six parties. Of these, eleven answered the questionnaire, twenty-six were interviewed and sixteen or 35% were visited. Three of them answered the questionnaire, were interviewed as well as visited; four only answered the questionnaire and were interviewed; three only answered the questionnaire and were visited; six only were interviewed and visited; one only answered the questionnaire; ten only were interviewed; four were only visited; information was gathered through other means on six parties and no information at all was received from three parties.

In total, there were 30 party archives on which information was gathered at a sufficient level for the survey.

While the data on the archives were being gathered, also data on two other aspects, linked with the archival situation, were retrieved: on the political parties involved as well as on the archival holders.

It is most important to know as much as possible about the latter, actually keeping the archives. Only if those data are available, a reliable assessment can be made regarding the situation of the archives, esp. their preservation. In most of the cases in this survey, the parties themselves are also the actual archival holders, often their headquarters; but it is not unusual for (part of) the archives to reside with party officials. Certainly the data on the latter kind of archival holder are not easy to retrieve, and more often than not secondary sources and interviews have to be relied on. In the cases where archives are cared for by institutes however there was ample information available. The data on those archival holders were gathered as



a result of the visits mentioned supra, documentation kept at the ADVN and/or the institute's website.

The information on the political parties themselves was gathered at consecutive stages. The retrieval started with consulting the extensive library (books and periodicals), as well as archives and documentation kept at the ADVN, were the coordination centre for NISE is based. A second starting point was each party's website. If the ADVN collection provided a sufficient basis, the content of the websites proved to be very useful for historical research, albeit to be handled with all the necessary caveats. In most cases also other sources had to be searched through, as for instance libraries or the wider Internet (e.g. these websites). Finally, contact was sought with the party itself to fill in the ubiquitous gaps in information. Regardless of the kind of source, all information had of course to undergo the usual critical examination before being entered into a database framework.

### Data processing

The data about the archives of the political parties are preserved and disclosed in a structured and controlled manner.

All data are (translated) in English, checked and systemised.

They are gathered into a separate database, which is incorporated into the general NISE database. Both databases-in-progress are private and developed on the Filemaker Pro platform. The collected data are finally migrated to a separate database framework, to be consulted through the NISE website. This database is publicly available and developed in Oracle.

The data models used in the databases are compliant with the international standards of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) and ICA (International Council on Archives). They are:

- For the data entries into the record for the party archives: the General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD(G)).

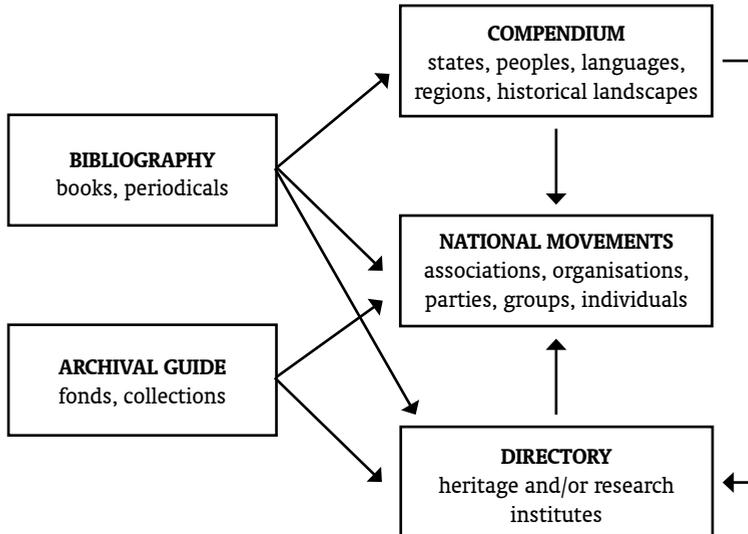
These archival data are linked with entries concerning the political parties themselves, and the individuals involved with them, as well as with record files on the actual archival holders (headquarters, heritage and research institutes, the persons involved with the parties). Also links with bibliographical references (books and periodicals) and data regarding the geopolitical context respectively are foreseen.

All those kind of data (except the contextual information) are likewise entered according to the international standards:

- The data entries concerning the intermediary structures and persons linked to the national movements is carried out according to the International Standard Archival Authority Record for Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families (ISAAR(CPF));
- The International Standard for Describing Institutions with Archival Holdings (ISDIAH) is applied, albeit slightly modified for this project, for the data entries into the record for the archival and/or research institutes and all other archival holders;
- The General International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD(G)) is used for the data entries about publications by and concerning the intermediary structures and persons;
- For the information on the context within which each political party operates, no international standard record is available. Therefore a master record sui generis was developed by NISE.

The last two master records (for publications and for the context) were not in use at the time of this publication. They will however be used during the follow-up to the project and presented at a later date.

The configuration of the database is as follows (simplified):



The data processing operation took place centrally, at the ADVN archives and research centre in Antwerp (Belgium). This continues alongside data gathering also after the project has ended.

### Data presentation

The data concerning the archives of the EFA member political parties are accessible on the Internet in the form of so-called 'authority files'. These files are available for consultation with the help of an Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). The language used for the database is English. The database observes the European legislation for the protection of personal data.

The OPAC provides room for each party archive to present:

- data on its actual situation
- data on the party and the persons involved
- data on the holders
- data on the publications by and about the party
- data about the context
- illustrations, as:
  - party logo(s)
  - exemplary source materials, mainly audiovisual, such as photographs, banners, posters etc., but also important documents from the party archive [digitised]
- links, with:
  - the party website
  - news on the party
  - important contextual documents
  - the report, with general conclusions and recommendations
  - a common thesaurus.

All the authority files continue to be centralised in the NISE database. They are managed centrally at the ADVN archives and documentation centre in Antwerp (Belgium). The records that have been disclosed can be consulted at the following Internet address: <http://gta.nise.eu/> under the general heading *Guide to the Archives*.





#### Conditions of access and use area

Conditions governing access	There are two categories of users and there are specific rules for each type. On the one hand the external users can visit the consultation room from 9:00 a.m. to 14:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. They have to fill out a consultation form with personal information and the reasons of the request; it is also possible to make requests via forms or e-mail. Users have only access to the open files in the consultation room, not to the deposit area. Only two units can be visited at the same time. It is strictly forbidden to remove documents in or out of the premises of the archive. If necessary, the archive staff is allowed to ask the user to identify himself. The consultation room can only be entered with paper and pencil. On the other hand the internal users (staff and national office of the Galiza Senate Foundation and the INIG) follow the same standards as the external users, with the difference that they are entitled to the loan of original documents in their own facilities, always under control of the technical staff. There are some other restrictions for consultation: people have to state a research purpose, limitations can arise from the nature of the documents, their condition or other factors determined by law. Access will be considered than by the manager of the archive. In any case, the consultation of documents dating from 2000 onwards, will always depend on the decision of the archive director.
Conditions governing reproduction	Copies are made in a special room under supervision of the archive staff. Applicants can collect their copies in this room. In 2010 copies cost 0.20 Euro per sheet. Copies for publications cost 2.00 Euro per sheet and therefore applicants need to give permission from the archive director by submitting an expense.
Language of material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English</li><li>French</li><li>Galician</li><li>Portuguese</li><li>Spanish</li></ul>
Physical characteristics and technical requirements	The documents are in excellent condition.
Preservation conditions	The archive is partially described according to International standard (ISAD (G)). The description of each unit is made by introducing the date into a model or database with fields are directly based on the structure of the international standard ISAD (G).

#### Related materials area

Existence and location of original	No part of the archive has been copied or digitized.
Publication notes	The documental has been a source of advice to queries of various national and international researchers on Galician nationalism. To mention here is an American research on the INIG, a study on electoral marketing and a play of Manuel Anes Fernandez Vaz. The most important publication so far is 'Nacionalismo Gallego Contemporáneo (1900-1994)' by Manuel Anes Fernandez Vaz in 2003.

#### Access points

Name access points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assoc. Nacionalismo Gallego (Cristina)</li></ul>
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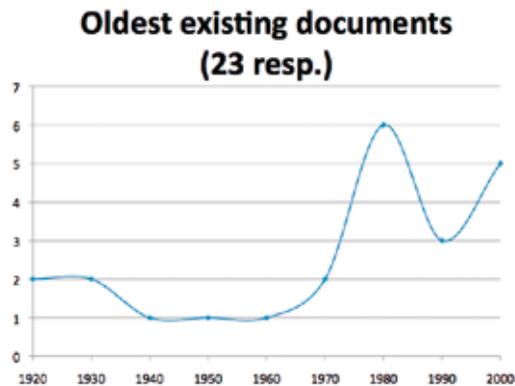
#### Description control area

Date of creation/revision	2010
Location	
Source	Data collected through interview with Xabier Molino in Vila-real on 28/02/2010 and questionnaire received on 03/05/2010.
Archivist's note	Eam-Cobbeart, Mary-Will

## Findings

This chapter presents the factual results of the survey. The data are summarised into a number of categories.

Before we start, this graphic shows, to all intents and purposes, the age of the earliest documents in approximately half the archives included in the survey:



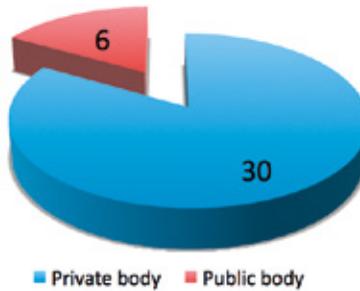
The information gathered through the survey was processed into categories and put into percentual outcome; with the help of diagrams, the results were moreover visualised.

The following topical categories are seized upon: status, conditions, content, disclosure and access.

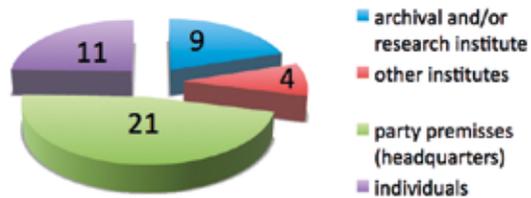
### A. Status

This category establishes where the archive is kept and by what kind of archival holder.

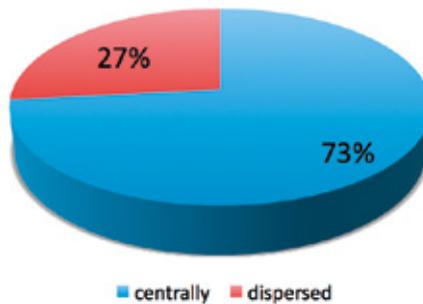
A.a. Is it a private organisation or individual or a public government institute? [30 resp.]



A.b. What kind of archival holder keeps the archives? [30 resp.]



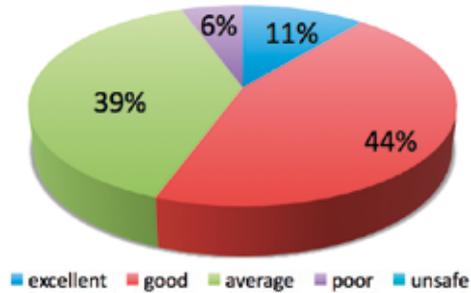
A.c. Are the archives kept in one place or are they dispersed over several depots?



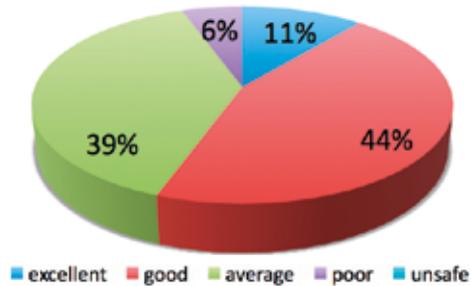
## B. Conditions

This category quantifies the actual material situation for the archive, from the building down to the condition of the documents.

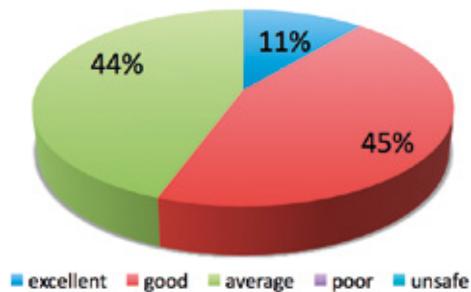
B.a. In what state are the holding premisses? [18 resp.]



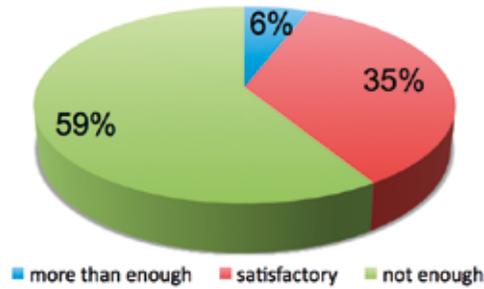
B.b. What is the situation for the room(s) the archives are kept in? [18 resp.]



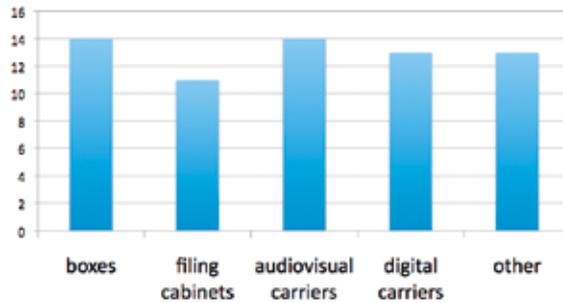
B.c. In what condition are the documents? [18 resp.]



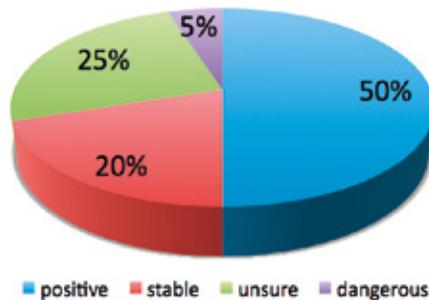
B.d. Is there sufficient space to store the documents (now and in the foreseeable future)? [17 resp.]



B.e. In what kind of holders are the documents kept? [20 resp.]



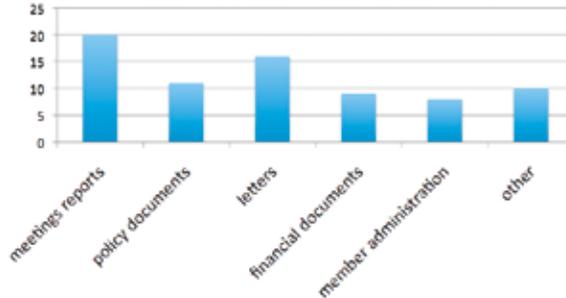
B.f. How is the geopolitical situation, esp. regarding the safekeeping of archives? [21 resp.]



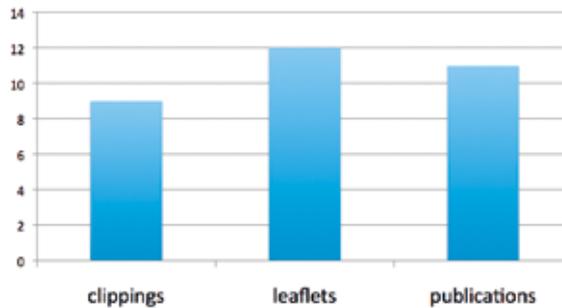
### C. Content

This category describes the type of documents held in the archives, including the digital documents.

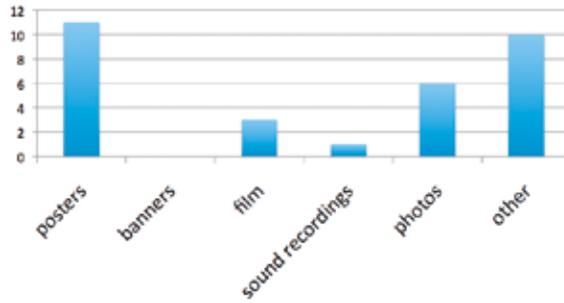
C.a. What kind of party documents do the archives hold? [24 resp.]



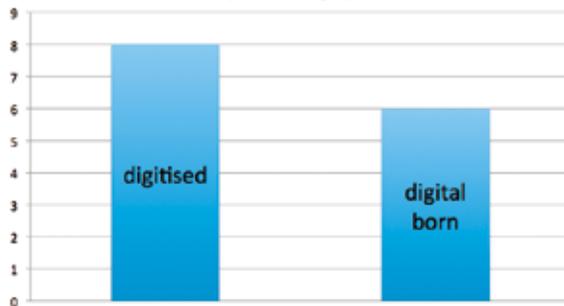
C.b. What kind of documentation is available? [19 resp.]



C.c. What kind of audiovisual materials are present? [20 resp.]



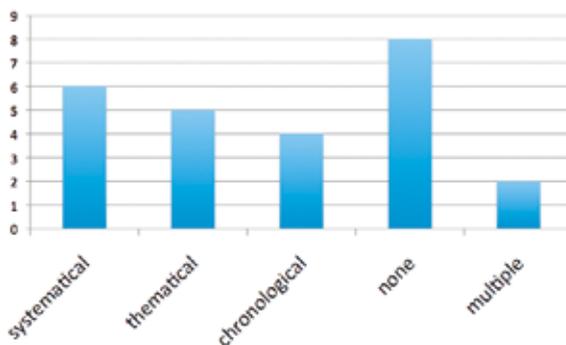
C.d. What kind of digital materials form part of the archives? [12 resp.]



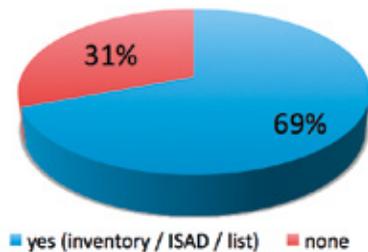
#### D. Disclosure

This category establishes to what extent and how the content of the archives is described.

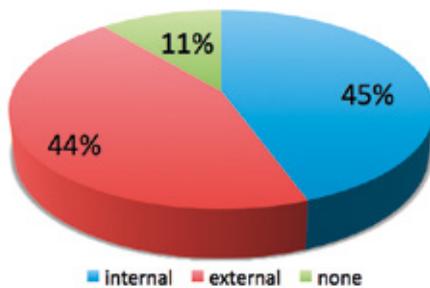
D.a. Which (primary) classification is applied? [21 resp.]



D.b. Are there finding aids available? [13 resp.]



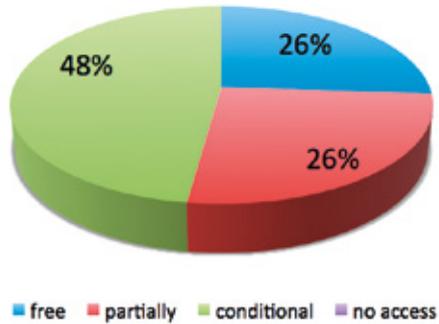
D.c. Has automatisisation taken place? [9 resp.]



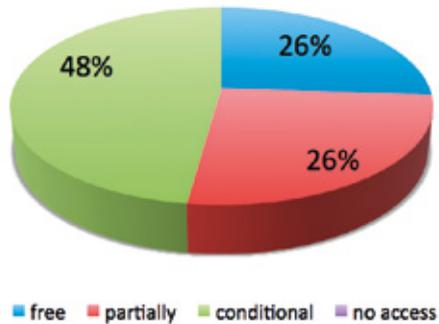
E. Access

This last category follows through at which level and how party members, external researchers and the public in general, have access to the archives.

E.a. How is the access regulated within the party? [23 resp.]



E.b. How is the external access regulated? [23 resp.]



## Conclusions

### *Analysis*

This analysis only makes use of the data provided by the parties or retrieved by the researchers. In total, the survey has produced thirty authority files with the required minimum information. From those, approximately two-thirds contain data at a sufficient level to hazard an analysis so as to be able to detect some trends, on the basis of which general and specific conclusions can be drawn on the state of the archives of the EFA parties. The conclusions will run along the categories used for the analysis. Unless stated otherwise, they refer to data in thirty authority files.

Setting aside that the somewhat feeble response could in itself be indicative, the survey leads to the following analysis.

The status of the so-called archival holders is an important element for the general situation for the archives. The survey has showed that all parties have stored at least part of their archives with a private organisation. Six of them keeps part of it in a public institute: most of the time this is the national archives or national library. In one case, part of the party archives are being kept by a city archives. In four cases the archives are kept at a private professional archives and research centre: three of them with the ADVN in Antwerp-Belgium, the other is with CIRDOC in Béziers-France. The three other parties who state keeping their archives at "other institutes", do that with often very professional outfits. In 70% of cases the archive is partially kept at party headquarters. One third of the parties in the survey see parts of their archives being kept with party members, more often than not (former) presidents or secretaries. It is of course not surprising that this relates closely to the proportion of archives being dispersed.

Regarding the conditions within which the archives are kept, the figures for the state of the building, the rooms and the items are pretty much the same. In at least half of the cases, the situation is reported to being good to very good and it is deemed satisfactory for the mainpart; only in one case the archives are being kept in miserable conditions. These findings should however be put into perspective. For the analysis of this category, the information gathered was indeed not as straightforward as for the previous one. It could be supposed that in those cases where there is no information available, the situation veers at least towards the unsatisfactory (or worse). And where (part of) the archives for several reasons are kept with party officials or volunteers, the situation is to all accounts undesirable,

albeit in some cases unavoidable to prevent worse happening to the documents and files. However, in most of the reported cases the (political) context appears to be stable, or sometimes even positive. What bothers most archival holders, however, is the lack of space.

The kind of archives produced by political parties are generally rather similar. It stands to reason that for the most part the archives contain transcripts of meetings as well as correspondence. Only one third to half of the parties also have kept policy documents, financial papers and a members administration. The same number of parties also have clippings, publications and propaganda materials stored. A surprisingly low number of parties indicate having digital born archives at their disposal.

More than half of the archives are disclosed with the help of at least a simple classification. Most cases resort to a chronological order following the systematic or thematic arrangement.

The access to the archives within the party itself, is in almost half of the survey participants limited by a number of preconditions. Nevertheless, a quarter leaves the archives available, on conditions, for all of its members; for another quarter the access is unconditionally granted to all members. External access, by researchers, is denied in half of the cases; the other half grants access under certain conditions or for the oldest parts of the archives only. In one particular case however access is free to everyone, within or outside the party.

### *Synthesis*

The conclusions drawn from the analysis of the data, lead to a number of general and specific remarks.

Generally speaking,

- there is a huge difference between the situation (in general) of party archives, most of the time linked with being kept at an institute or not (in its turn – at least for parties in Western Europe – related to the age and the volume of the archives);
- a number of party archives are underresourced, suffering from unsuitable accommodation, the lack of know-how and/or time and personnel, or are even in a politically hazardous situation;
- all archives, even those that are well cared for and managed, lack a (tailor-made) international dimension, as part of an overall lack of interconnectiveness.

More specifically, it transpired that

- care has been taken to put the archives in a systematic order, albeit in many cases not according to archival standards, methods and procedures;
- in contrast, the disclosure of the archives through finding aids is in many cases not in place, the retrieval of documents sometimes depending on the knowledge of those responsible for the archives;
- the general drive towards digitisation of archives lacks a methodical approach; on the whole the level of computerisation is low;
- the level of external access to the archives lacks consistency and is sometimes at odds with the general archival rules of access.

All this leads to distinguishing a number of categories of situation in which party archives tend to find themselves. They are:

- parties having their archives held by a state institute  
An example is Plaid Cymru. Its archives rest with the Welsh Political Archive (Yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig) at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth; documentation is kept at party headquarters in Cardiff.  
In such cases there are no worries about preservation, but disclosure by finding aids depends on the holding archival institute.
- parties having their archives with a private institute  
An example for this category is the Bloque Nacionalista Galego, whose archives, after being kept at the national headquarters in Santiago de Compostela, were transferred to the care of the Galiza Sempre Foundation.  
The level of archival expertise available at private institutes can vary, depending on the kind of operation.
- parties with dispersed archives  
Examples for this type are the Bayern Partei and Ruch Autonomii Śląska. A major part of the archives of the BP were sold around 1984 to the Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, after which the main part of the new (and some older) documents were kept by the party president at his home. After 1990 all archives were held at the party headquarters, from which the static part was transferred in 2010 to the ADVN. Finally, a collection of personal archival and research materials regarding the BP is kept at the Institut für Zeitgeschichte in München. A very different history has also led to the archives being dispersed for RAŚ,

which has never had any central archives. They are now being kept at party headquarters in Katowice, as well as in the former seat in Rybnik and with different local branches and with politicians; moreover, recently the administration became largely digital.

For the first example preservation is secured, and the only inconvenience is the distance researchers have to cover (which however with modern communication media can be bridged adequately). The dispersion with the second type could present several problems regarding preservation, disclosing, consulting etc.

- parties with a long and chequered history, which is reflected in the situation of their archives  
A distinguished example for this category, in which the whole gamut of problems is gone through, is the oldest party in the survey, the Partito Sardo d’Azione. This case will form part of a more detailed study at a later stage.
- relatively recent parties, with a non-existent to budding organisation  
A typical example is Ålands Framtid, with the archives kept in one, small room at the Åland parliament, with some shelves and bookcases, and the emphasis on digital-born archives. Here the transition from none to some kind of organisation of archives (also for the digital sources) has to happen at some point in its development.
- parties lacking resources for proper archival care  
Moravané and Ligue Savoisienne are examples of parties where there is lot of interest in and (voluntary) work done for the party archives, but alas no proper circumstances to perform those tasks properly.
- parties acting in a non-cooperative environment  
Examples like the Union Démocratique Bretonne show that some official avenues to safeguard the archives can be closed, necessitating from the outset private and international initiatives.

The analysis and synthesis of the actual situation for the archives, leads to a number of recommendations for (in some cases immediate) action and regarding (mid and long term) policy decisions to be made, by the parties themselves, by EFA, by the authorities and by heritage institutes all over Europe. These are discussed in the concluding section of this publication.



## THE NEEDS OF ARCHIVES

As a result of the findings made through the survey, several practical recommendations are being made here, answering to different aspects of archival care and management, i.e. the needs of archives. These include the depot alongside preservation, processing, arrangement and description (finding aids), access (conditions), digitisation, dissemination and research.

The recommendations are summarised into a set of rules of thumb, aimed at improving the archival care and management of the archives of the EFA parties.

The conclusions also lead to the plan for a set of structural and internationally coordinated and supported measures to be taken by party archives.

Finally, emphasis is laid on the need for increased archival awareness among all stakeholders.

### Rules of thumb

Among the party archives forming part of this survey, a substantial number is being cared for by the party itself. Notwithstanding the enthusiasm and genuine concern amongst many or indeed all responsible for the archives, there exists most of the time a lack of opportunity, know-how and/or resources to keep archival care and management up to standard. It however has been proven that for the management of the party as well as for historiographical purposes, respectively dynamic and static archives and documentation are indispensable.

Whilst visiting the different party archives, the urgent need for advice and good practices in the management of archives was apparent, even though there were huge differences between the particular requests. Some parties did not have any notion about archives at all and demanded very basic advice to start with. Other parties had a well elaborated archival policy or kept their archives at an institute and wanted to exchange knowledge. Moreover many of the archival recommendations depend on locally varying customs, laws and regulations. Thus the following does not constitute a crash course for novice archivists nor is it an absolute list of requirements for party archives. These recommendations are a first step in the development of best practices for archives of national movements in Europe. As a work in progress they will be further developed as a *Manual* on the on-line expertise and information centre (EIC) on the website of NISE.

The recommendations are put together into six main categories that follow the classic archival workflow: context, appraisal, arrangement, preservation, digitisation and access.

*Context: the whereabouts?*

■ Discover your archives

In an ideal world all the archives of a party or organisation are kept at the headquarters and managed with a continuity in classification and order. Obviously such is rarely the case. Therefore look for, map and bring together as much archival material as possible. Ask former chairmen and secretaries about the records in their possession because the border between organisational and personal archives can be wafer-thin. Explore every possible location for potential archive material.

■ Learn about its use

There are several reasons why records are being and should be kept: legal function, administrative function, research and historical value etc. (cf. supra). The first two reasons have primary value for the organisation today, thus requiring a different approach in sorting and accessibility.

■ Research its history

It is recommended that the archivist gets acquainted with the history of the organisation: its foundation, objectives, work, personnel etc. Understanding and being able to trace the development of the organisation, identify its functions, its operating committees, administrative structure, significant persons involved etc. is essential in developing a solid classification scheme for the archive.

*Appraisal: all paper in the bin?*

■ Know your national retention policies

Most European countries have regulations concerning the retention periods for financial, tax and other administration records. Learning about these policies may help to dispose of space consuming documents.

■ Destroy, but keep history in mind

The disposal of records may save space, but very important information for future researchers can get lost that way. Five-year-old membership lists may be worthless now, but the destruction of it will make it impossible for historians for example to study the evolution of the members' social backgrounds.

■ Cleaning: the easy option

Identical prints, rough notes, envelopes etc. can easily be disposed. But remember to shred all documents.



*Arrangement: think twice!*

■ What applies to paper...

A classification scheme is essentially a model for arranging archives into categories based upon the organisation and functioning of the entity that produced them. The process of classification needs careful thought. There is no model scheme adaptable to all archives, but there are guidelines. The archivist of the organisation needs to proceed pragmatically and to devise a scheme best suited for the archives which are in their care. Classification schemes derived from a library environment should generally be avoided as they are usually based on subject. Archives, on the contrary, need to be arranged according to the principles of provenance and original order.

■ ...applies to digital archives

Opposed to popular belief there should be no difference between classification schemes for archives in paper or digital format. Good model schemes can be perfectly implemented in both environments. Digital files and folders however, do require more than usual attention concerning their names. Give them logical (classification number), meaningful names and other useful data (places and dates).

*Preservation: better than conservation!*

■ Avoid the cost of conservation

Sometimes there is no other option than the conservation of valuable historical archives to save them and the information they hold for future generations. As amateur repairs are likely to make damage worse, professional aid is the only option. The financial weight of these operations is usually hard to justify for other than founding documents. The best advice is to avoid conservation by keeping them in optimal conditions.

■ Good materials are half the job

- Use quality paper for long term preservation, recycled paper can be used for documents that do not need to be preserved.
- Remove metal paper clips, staples, pins, adhesive tape, rubber bands and post-it's from documents and photos as they do damage fast and easily.
- Archival documents should be wrapped in acid free paper and/or folders and packed in an acid free box. These archive boxes also offer protection from dust.
- Photos should be wrapped in sulphur and acid free material. Maps, plans and posters should be kept flat or wrapped round a tube.
- Choose open source, standardised or well documented file formats for your digital office files (pdf, odf, xml etc) and photos (tiff, jpeg etc). Avoid compression and password protection.

- Storage conditions are essential
- Try to avoid cellars, attics and garages, although a dry cellar combined with good isolation, heating and natural ventilation can be a good archival depot.
- Put archive racks and cabinets against interior walls, preferably at 10 cm distance from the wall and the ground. Exterior walls, that are more sensitive to outside temperature and humidity, are only an option when racks are put at a distance of at least 70 cm. Avoid archival storage in the proximity of drain and heating pipes.
- Pay attention to temperature (15-18° Celsius) and relative humidity (45%) and avoid fluctuations at all cost. They can be monitored with hygrometers, thermohygrographs, digital hand-held temperature and relative humidity probes.
- Avoid direct (sun)light (max. 50 lux). UV light makes paper brittle and yellow and causes inks to fade.
- Magnetic tapes, computer tapes, floppy discs, cd-rom's and other optical discs are no good carriers for digital documents. Migrate them to an external hard disk drive (HDD). Combined with regular integrity checks, multiple backups at different locations (LOCKSS – Lots Of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) and to different carriers (cd and dvd), this is the most favorable option against possible data corruption or damage.

*Digitisation: a paperless archive?*

- The purpose of digitisation

The digitisation of records can have two purposes. Either it is carried out as a way of document management, so it allows several people to access the same document at the same time wherever they are, while removing the necessity of holding the original on-site. Or it is used as a means of preserving documents by making them available to researchers without exposing the originals to wear-and-tear. Digitising also allows for great savings in space, and through proper use of metadata tags, for accurate searching of large quantities of material.

- Use SOAP for a clean scan

Digitisation is a labour intensive purpose, and can be costly, so you need to make sure each image produced is of high quality (min. 300 dpi, preferably 600 dpi), later worrying about producing different versions. The 'master' copy of each file should be treated as an archival document and kept as true to the original as possible. Versions of the master file for use, in publications, websites or intranets, should be created from the master file using Paintshop Pro, Adobe Photoshop, GIMP or similar graphics manipulation software, and stored as entirely separate files from the master. This approach is called SOAP: Scan Once for All Purposes.

*Access: locking away or opening up?*

■ The research benefit

Besides internal users, party archives can expect requests for access from external users, such as historians or journalists. Rather than locking them away, parties should consider opening up their archives. Allowing access may provide intellectual benefit for the party if an access policy is drawn up which finds a compromise between the needs of the organisation and the needs of the users. To external users access to party archives should always be considered a privilege rather than a right, and does not necessarily need to put stress on the archive-holding organisation.

■ The right for information

As parties are private organisations, there is no legal right of access to those archives. There may be, however, some legal exceptions depending on local regulations. Under some personal data protection or privacy laws people have the right to know what information is stored about them and have it corrected if necessary. If the party or party organisations received public funding then all relevant records can be subject to freedom of information regulations.

■ Transparent policies

Parties are private organisations, therefore it is perfectly acceptable to set a closure period for the archives. We advise a general 30 year closure period, but it may range between 25, 50 or even 100 years. It is, however, essential to be clear, transparent and undiscriminatory about those restrictions. Researchers can put up with refusal of access when noting they are treated fairly and unbiased, rather than suspecting uninformed censorship.

Finally one general remark: regardless of the level of access to the archives, it is advisable, both for internal and external purposes, to not only have one party official or employee responsible for the archives, but also to communicate this, and preferably also other information regarding the archives, to the party members and the general public (for instance, on the website).



## **Coordination**

This chapter proposes several general options for safeguarding and managing party archives; these can be executed separately or (preferably) combined, including an easy way out of archival problems and worries. The continuous thread within all of these options is the presence of a coordinating platform, like NISE.

### *Information*

Information regarding archives and political parties has to be continuously gathered and presented to all that are interested and/or have an interest in the matter. This has to be done through different media and by different modes of operation.

### *Communication*

After making the database public, the records are not only constantly updated, but also added to by NISE, as part of its general remit.

However, as the project has shown without a shadow of a doubt, questionnaires, corresponding and interviewing are valuable means to get to know the situation at a certain level. But there is only one way to be able to really assess the archival situation, which is a diversified and bespoke approach. This entails at one stage or another, visiting the location itself of party archives.

This undertaking leads to a document summarizing the situation and containing suggestions concerning the preservation and management of each individual archive. This document could be revised every five years.

This has to be accompanied by a general promotion of archival awareness among party officials. Not only the database, but also the findings and recommendations in this report will be brought to the attention of the public through the usual communication channels of CMC and NISE, in this case especially directed at the political parties within EFA. In view of the subject of the survey and report, also other institutes, organisations and media have to be targeted (for instance the International Council of Archives – Section of Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties). Finally, all other nationalist and regionalist political parties which are not member of EFA can be made aware of the survey findings.

All of this however does not automatically guarantee better management or even the naked preservation of the archives. Further action has to be taken, providing basic archival skills, through modern communication media as well as hand-on archival services, for instance a manual and a consulting archivist.

## Manual

A manual is made available on the NISE website, to help party officials and volunteers with the management of their archives. It contains general information, advice and guidelines, master documents and standards etc. on how to assess the context of archives, to arrange and preserve them, as well as regarding the digitisation of and access to the documents.

The manual deals with following items (the list is not exhaustive):

- Context
  - The importance of the history of your archives:  
*examples of possible backgrounds of archives and the corresponding problems*
  - Discovering the contents of your archive:  
*the kinds of content*
  - The varied usage of archive:  
*difference between static and dynamic archives*
  - Locating and collecting archives:  
*where can archives be found*
- Appraisal
  - Preliminary sorting:  
*how*
  - Extracting published and audiovisual materials:  
*what and why*
  - Retention policies:  
*overview of the retention policies in different European countries  
applying a retention policy*
  - Cleaning the archives:  
*what can be destroyed  
how to destroy archives*

- Arrangement
  - Classification:
    - building a classification scheme*
    - arrangement model(s): theoretical and practical*
    - implementing a digital classification*
  - Cataloguing:
    - international standards*
    - archival terminology*
    - software*
  
- Preservation
  - Conservation:
    - the materials in an archive*
    - first aid*
    - minimal intervention*
    - professional intervention (with list of professional conservation enterprises)*
  - Materials (paper):
    - examples of good packaging*
    - examples of bad packaging*
    - list of packaging suppliers*
  - Materials (digital):
    - overview of file formats*
    - compression and password protection*
  - Storage conditions:
    - store room equipment*
    - temperature*
    - humidity*
    - light*
    - vermin*
    - security (vandalism, disasters...)*
    - digital storage (carriers, backups...)*
  
- Digitisation
  - principle of multi-purpose digitisation*
  - requirements for a good digitisation*
  - list of software*

- Access
  - Examples of possible research using party archives
  - Legal matters:
    - overview of data protection laws in Europe*
    - overview of privacy laws in Europe*
  - Developing an access policy (closure, restrictions...) constantly updated

The manual can be consulted on-line at the following address: <http://eic.nise.eu/>. It forms part of the broader *Expertise and Information Centre (EIC)* that is taking shape on the website.

The manual will be constantly updated and added to by NISE.

The screenshot shows the NISE website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with links like 'Main page', 'Recent changes', 'Help', 'Resources', 'GTA Manual', 'GTA Database', 'Tools', 'What's new here', 'Related changes', 'Special pages', 'Printable version', and 'Permanent link'. The main content area is titled 'Category:GTA Manual' and contains an introductory paragraph about the GTA project, a table of contents with 6 items (Context, Appraisal, Arrangement, Preservation, Digitisation, Access), and four sections: 'Context', 'Appraisal', 'Arrangement', and 'Preservation'. Each section has a list of sub-topics. At the top right of the page, there is a search bar and a 'Log in' link.

## Arrangement model

In the meantime, this publication already wants to help party archivists by presenting an arrangement model for party archives, as there is no international standard model available. The model below is therefore based upon several such proposals in archival manuals and studies, as well as (and in fact for the greater part) upon the experience gathered with arranging political party archives at the ADVN.

The user has to bear in mind that it is only a theoretical draft. It gives an idea how a party archive *can* be arranged. In most cases practical adjustments will need to be made according to actual situations. It is one of the goals of the Expertise and Information Centre (EIC) to gather extensive information on the subject and to gradually improve the proposal below into a standard model.

1. Statutes and regulations
2. General correspondence
3. Structures
  - 3.1. Executive Board / Bureau / ...
  - 3.2. Council / General Assembly / ...
  - 3.3. Committees
4. Administration
  - 4.1. Financial management
  - 4.2. Property
    - 4.2.1. Real estate
    - 4.2.2. Movable property
  - 4.3. Personnel
5. Member administration
  - 5.1. Files, lists etc.
  - 5.2. Recruitment
6. Branches and sections
  - 6.1. National
  - 6.2. Regional
  - 6.3. Local

- 7. Meetings
  - 7.1. Conferences
  
- 8. Communication
  - 8.1. Publications
    - 8.1.1. Periodicals
    - 8.1.2. Monographies
    - 8.1.3. Brochures and leaflets
  - 8.2. Press releases
  - 8.3. On-line media
  - 8.4. Other materials
  
- 9. Documentation
  - 9.1. Thematic files
  - 9.2. Publications
  
- 10. Elections
  - 10.\* [per election]
  
- 11. Mandates
  - 11.1. International
  - 11.2. National
  - 11.3. Regional
  - 11.4. Local
  
- 12. Constituency work
  
- 13. Contacts with other parties and organisations



### ‘Flying archivist’

Besides this publication, the database and the manual, a so-called ‘flying archivist’ assists with the most urgent and basic needs of the party archives, which the parties themselves cannot provide. This setting of ways, delivering of models and showing procedures to be followed, can in many a case constitute a world of difference.

The arrangement entails

- signing with each participant separately a cooperation agreement, setting out the mutual obligations;
- sending a qualified and experienced archivist for a maximum of 5 days to each of the selected party archives. This “flying archivist” performs one, some or all of the following tasks, in accordance with the specific circumstances for each situation:
  - consult on storage, materials, handling, arranging, drawing up finding aids, digitalisation, access regulations and procedures etc.;
  - execute an exemplary arrangement;
  - assist with finding and organising due material care and attention;
  - point to and arrange for the relevant ITC environment for digital born archives;
  - draw up a report with conclusions and recommendations for each party archive;
- from the experience gained with the different cases, add to the on-line archival manual for the preservation and management of archives of nationalist and regionalist political parties.

The scheme is intended to

- setting ways, delivering models and showing procedures to be followed;
- creating a basic acceptable level of archival care for all party archives;
- engendering archival awareness among party members and workers;
- adding to and disseminating the general knowledge on nationalist and regionalist party archives.



### *Cooperation*

Only in a few privileged cases, parties can rely solely on themselves to manage their archives. Cooperation is therefore unavoidable, in a number of ways.

#### Joining means and forces

The guidance offered by the publication, database and the manual on the one hand and by a 'flying archivist' on the other, lacks sustainability. Also many parties will continue having insufficient resources to keep up to standards regarding the care and management of their archives.

A solution to this persistent problem lies in pooling together know-how and resources, under guidance of a professional archival institute, so as to ascertain best practices and benchmarking.

There already exists such an international organisation regarding political party archives: the International Council of Archives – Section of Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties (ICA–SPP). Also nationally, there are organisations to that purpose, as for instance in the United Kingdom, the Political Parties and Parliamentary Archives Group, UK. These organisations are however not really suited to accommodate non-professional archivists and institutes. There are also the specific circumstances of nationalist and regionalist parties and their archives to consider.

Those specific preconditions could however be met within the NISE framework. A section for party archives will have to be created to that purpose. This NISE Network of Party Archives (NISE–NPA) would gather and provide information, develop joint action plans and together seek funding; the NISE–NPA can in turn join, as a whole, the aforementioned ICA–SSP.

#### Depositing the archives

As we have already seen in the first section of this publication, there is of course the danger, for all archives, but certainly for archives of political parties, and even more so in the case of nationalist and regionalist movements, of willful damage or even destruction of the documents, as has already been the case for the Rainbow archives.

In such cases there is the possibility to deposit that part of the archives and documentation which no longer is operational, with a professional archival and/or research institute. The party retains the ownership of the archives, at the same time being assured of the safeguarding and professional care for their collection. This goes of course also for less dramatic circumstances, for instance when the static archives are still at party headquarters or rest with officials of the party.

As local state-run institutes do not always possess the necessary experience with and nous regarding the specific circumstances surrounding national and regional movements, i.e. parties, archives could be deposited with the ADVN, the archival and research centre in Antwerp, which acts as coordinator for NISE. For example, the Bayern Partei transferred its archives that were kept at its headquarters (and of some of local branches of the party) to the ADVN, this institute providing the safekeeping, registration, listing and publicizing (through the Internet website).

### **Awareness**

As the Belgian pioneer of library science Paul Otlet (1868-1944) once said, classifying is the most important task for the human mind, a task that implies all other ones: classifying allows for abstraction, systematisation and synthesis and leads to better comprehension of the world and humanity. This is also, or the more so, the case today, with an unseen flood of information available to everyone on the Internet, but without 'gatekeepers' or mediators (e.g. *Wikipedia*): whereas before teachers, editors and indeed archivists guarded the quality of information, all hierarchy is ignored. So, a critical classification of information will always be required. On the other hand, as the act of 'collecting' – depositing and archiving – at the same time implies attributing value, things becoming valuable because one reserves a place for them, by depositing, one also discards them, rendering them 'untouchable'. So, paradoxically, in the culture of keeping (alive) by archiving, there is also an element of death (Devoldere 1999).

In both cases, the need for information gateways and for breathing new life into the archives by disclosing them, archival care and management are indispensable. And, at the outset, the presence of 'archival awareness' among all archival creators to set the process going.

To all intent and purposes, an extra effort will have to be made to explain the importance of archives. Archives are created as a result of carrying out tasks, of

work processes and activities within organisations and with individuals. They are not only indispensable for the administration, but they play also an important role in decision making and organisational policy. They are moreover necessary for holding the professionals and managers of the organisation to account. There is also the undisputable historic interest of archives (Brouwer 2009, 75). And, finally, archives are indispensable for the identity of any group, organisation or country. It goes without saying that particular parties with group identity as their core business, are expected to pay attention to the need for and the needs of archives.

To benefit from the project also after it has long stopped, a continuing coordination of archival care and management and of data flow on a supra-national level, has to be arranged through structured cooperation. This has to promote the implementation of international procedures and standards by all parties involved, so as to raise the level of archival care and management.

This publication, accompanied by the constantly increasing information on the individual cases via the permanently updated on-line database and about archival practices and procedures in the manual, both managed by the NISE platform, as well as separate initiatives and projects, will hopefully not only increase archival awareness among the EFA parties but also actually help ameliorating the situation for their archives.



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## **NISE PROCEEDINGS**

- 1** *Developing the NISE platform. Proceedings of the First NISE Conference – Skopje (Macedonia), 27-28 May 2010 – Antwerp, 2011.*
- 2** *The need for and the needs of archives. The archives and documentation of the member parties of the European Free Alliance (EFA) – Antwerp, 2012.*